AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of visualization of a three-dimensional image representative of a three-dimensional imaged object, the method comprising:

displaying the three-dimensional image in a display window;

selecting a point on an element of interest present in a part of the three-dimensional image, and subsequent thereto, moving the three-dimensional image within the display window in response to the selected point on the element of interest;

creating in the part of the three-dimensional image a finite volume whose dimensions are predetermined and whose center is the point on the element of interest present in the part of the three-dimensional image, an outside dimension of the finite volume being less than a width of the display window;

making an interactive intersection between the predetermined finite volume and the part of the three-dimensional image to isolate the element of interest in the three-dimensional image; and

~~visualizing~~ displaying in the display window only the part of the three-dimensional image contained in the predetermined finite volume.

2. (canceled).

3. (previously presented) The method of visualization according to claim 1 wherein the predetermined finite volume can be displaced in the three-dimensional image

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according to a translational motion, while displaying only the part of the three-dimensional image contained at each instant in the predetermined finite volume.

4. (canceled).

3 5. (previously presented) The method of visualization according to claim 1 wherein displaying the part of the three-dimensional image contained in the predetermined finite volume as well as any other part of the three-dimensional image not contained in a cylinder, with the predetermined finite volume, of section identical to the section of the predetermined finite volume and of infinite length, and in that any part of the three-dimensional image not contained in the cylinder is displayed in degraded mode.

6. (canceled).

4 7. (previously presented) The method of visualization according to claim 1 wherein once a part of the three-dimensional image is visualized in the predetermined finite volume, the dimensions of that predetermined finite volume can be modified by an operator.

8. (canceled).

5 9. (previously presented) The method of visualization according to claim 1 wherein the predetermined finite volume is a sphere whose diameter is equal to half the width of a display window of the three-dimensional image.

10. (canceled).

6 11. (previously presented) The method of visualization according to claim 1 wherein once the point is selected on the element of interest, a translation of the three-dimensional image is made, so as to place the point in the center of a display window of the three-dimensional image.

7 12. (previously presented) The method of visualization according to claim 1 wherein the point is selected by means of a cursor.

8 13. (new) The method of visualization according to claim 1, wherein:

the displaying results in the displaying of white space within the display window and outside of the predetermined finite volume.

9 14. (new) The method of visualization according to claim 1, wherein:

the making an interactive intersection to isolate the element of interest comprises removing from the image to be displayed those elements outside of the predetermined finite volume.